

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~ Matthew 16:18



August 21, 2011

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
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office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study ..... 9:45 AM  
Worship..... 10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM  
Worship..... 6:00 PM

### Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class ..... On Break  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

## Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

## Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten  
Cherokee Home for Children  
Food Pantry  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Gospel Chariot Missions  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

## A TRULY WONDERFUL STATEMENT!

By Dave Rogers

*"And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant  
with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 1:14, KJV)*

Have you ever read this passage and stopped to consider what Paul is actually saying here? His description, of the grace of God, is almost a definition in itself of what God has done for us through Jesus the Christ! Notice first that these words come on the heels of Paul's description of his own condition **before** his conversion to Christianity, in vs. 13: He was...

1. ...*a blasphemer* (one who speaks evil, slanders, rails and abuses). In Acts 26:11, Paul told king Agrippa that, in his former life, he actually tried to cause Christians to do this, trying to force them to renounce their faith!
2. ...*a persecutor* (one who *intentionally* causes suffering and pain). As Paul addressed the angry mob in the "castle stairs" speech of Acts 22, he freely admitted in vs. 4 that he had previously persecuted Christians "...unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."
3. ... *injurious* (this derives from the same word as our English word *hubris*, and it describes an insolent, violent aggressor, "one who, uplifted with pride, either heaps insulting language upon others or does them some shameful act of wrong.") This same word is used in Romans 1:30 to describe those who are "despiteful" (KJV) or "insolent" (ASV), among other evil qualities.
4. **In spite of these wicked qualities**, Paul obtained mercy from the Lord (1 Timothy 1:13).

Next, we read of the grace of God which Paul received: God showed him grace in granting him mercy when what he *deserved* was condemnation. "Grace" is sometimes described as "what we urgently need but in no way deserve." The word itself simply means favor; thus, what Paul obtained was God's favor, His blessing, His approval. It is important to note, however, that this approval did not come **before** Paul repented of his evil doings, nor did he receive it **before** his baptism (Acts 9:6 & 9, cf. Acts 22:16). Rather, when Paul did what Jesus instructed, he received what the Lord had promised (Acts 22:10). Paul does not merely record, however, that God had mercy on him; instead, he describes what God had done by saying that the grace he received was "exceedingly abundant" (literally, *overflowing*). This description might take our minds back to the words of David in the Shepherd's Psalm (23), where he exclaims "...my cup runneth over." It is by this "overflowing" grace of God that we are saved! He has not given us "just enough" grace to be saved, or "nearly" enough, nor even "a little extra;" **God has given us more grace than we can hold! More grace than we can contain! More grace, even, than we can use!**

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*Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.  
Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but  
condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

*Romans 12:14-16*



Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

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In Ephesians 2:8, it is by this *abundant* grace that we are saved. Paul describes it in Romans 6:23 as the "free gift of God (which) is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (ASV). This **gift** stands in contrast to the "paycheck" of sin, which is eternal separation from Him! The life which God gives in Christ is an "abundant life" according to John 10:10, and Paul calls it "life indeed" in 1 Timothy 6:19.

Now notice the words of 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Paul is giving us a lesson to share will all people, in all cultures, for all times: If one who actively and intentionally fought against the Lord and His will can nonetheless be saved, then *anyone* who will come to Him can obtain salvation! There is **no one** who is "too bad, or too wicked, or too far from God" to receive His grace, and there is no one for whom God "doesn't have enough grace" for salvation! As Jesus Himself says in Revelation 22:17, "whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." The **core** of Paul's words comes in 1 Timothy 1:15, and it is simply this: **Jesus Christ saves sinners!** Therefore, **NO ONE** is beyond the reach of His grace, who chooses to come to Him. What a truly wonderful statement about the goodness, generosity and love of our God!

# "I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM"

By: Roger D. Campbell

On one occasion some Jews asked Jesus, "Who art thou?" (John 8:25). His answer was, "Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning." As Jesus continued His conversation with them, He declared, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29). What a statement! Let us break it down and consider each part of it.

1. "**And he that sent me**" – This is an expression that we often read coming from the lips of the Messiah. Who is the One that sent Jesus? The same verse goes on to mention "the Father." Jesus had just told the Jews, ". . . but he that sent me is true" (8:26). John, the writer, then adds, "They understood not that he spake to them of the Father"(8:27). In another of John's inspired writings we read, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). Thus, it is plain that the Father is the One that sent the Son.
2. "**And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone**" – On the night of Jesus' betrayal, He told His apostles, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me" (John 16:32). What a comfort it must have been to the Son to know that His heavenly Father was with Him "through thick and thin." What about faithful children of God today? We know that Jesus promised His apostles that He would be with them when they went to preach the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19, 20). It is comforting, indeed, to know the Lord's promise to us, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). Of course, that promise is conditional. We are comforted to know that as we walk in the light, we have fellowship not only with other faithful saints of God, but also with the Godhead (1 John 1:3, 7).
3. "For I do always **those things that please him**" – From the context of this statement, we learn that both what Jesus did and taught were in harmony with the Father's will. Jesus had earlier stated that He came down from heaven, not to do His own will, but the will of Him that sent Him (John 6:38). Here is a lesson for each of us. God's will is revealed to us in the Bible. As we learn that will, it then becomes a matter of choice for us: we will either choose to live according to those things that please the Lord, or we will choose to do those things that please someone other than the Lord. Some strive to please other people. Others strive to please self. However, if we want to please the Lord, there is only one right choice: strive to please Him! Remember what Paul wrote about this: ". . . if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"(Galatians 1:10). What is it that true servants of the Christ do? They try to please Him.
4. "**For I do always those things that please him**" – Jesus not only *knew* what pleased the Father, and He not only *talked* about what pleased the Father. He actually **did**

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## Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)  
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way  
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB

Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org

Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on  
Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

## Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)  
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

## God's Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)  
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)

Sun: Psalms 57-61 Romans 12

Mon: Psalms 62-66 Romans 13

Tue: Psalms 67-69 Rom. 14

Wed: Psalms 70-72 Rom. 15:1-21

Thu: Psalms 73-74 Rom. 15:22-33

Fri: Psalms 75-77 Romans 16

Sat. Psalms 78-79 1 Corinthians 1



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what pleased the Father! Many people know what the Lord desires. A whole lot of folks talk about what the Father desires. Knowledge and proper teaching are important, but they are of no value to our own relationship with the Lord unless we actually *do* what pleases Him. If the Savior counted it as essential in His earthly life to do what pleased the Father, then should not you and I count it as a serious, required course of action for us as well? Somehow Satan has convinced masses of religious people that striving to "do" the Lord's will is an evil concept. To many, "doing" the Lord's will (that is, keeping His commands) is legalism or evidence that one is trying to earn his/her salvation. The Bible teaches no such thing! The one that truly knows God is the one that keeps His word. The Bible says so (1 John 2:3-5). The one that is allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven is the one that does the Father's will. Jesus said so (Matthew 7:21). Thus, making a serious effort to do what pleases the Father is not a wicked thing at all. In fact, it puts one in pretty good company, for that is what the Christ did when He lived on the earth.

### Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Please join us each time. Last week 35 contacts were made.

Also remember that tonight is the **3rd Sunday** so after our meeting we invite everyone to stay for a finger-food supper.

### Address Update

**Billie Jean Walters** is now living at Oak Ridge Manor:

### Bible Search...

will resume in September and it is time to begin studying now. The topic this year will be an "Old Testament Survey"; if you want to participate or have questions, please see Ryan.

### Thoughts on Psalm 119:59 by Eddie Parrish

Few things should be as helpful each day as a few minutes of serious introspection. Whether you choose to do it in the morning, evening, or some other time of day, do it. We readily see the need for self-examination in the pursuit of good physical health. Let us not forget to make the more important spiritual application of that principle.

The psalmist wrote, "I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to your testimonies" (119:59). How often do you "ponder the path of your feet" (Prov. 4:26)? Make some time today to think about your life, then make sure that your feet are turned toward the perfect word of Almighty God.

5. *"For I do always those things that please him"* – Jesus' commitment to doing the Father's will was continuous. It was a daily, ongoing, never-stopping course of action for Him. The second point that we noticed above from John 8:29 was the fact that the Father was with Jesus. Here is the Lord's own explanation of why that was the case: *"For I do always those things that please Him."* Brothers and sisters, if we want to be pleasing in God's sight, then we, too, must make a continuous effort – "always" – to do that which pleases Him. Surely none of us wants to be a part-time doer of the Lord's will. No, we want to know His will, then we want to do His will. When? "Always." Where? Wherever we are.

I can remember my mother telling me on many occasions as I was planning to leave and go somewhere, "Be on your best behavior." For a child of the living God, our "best behavior" is doing the Lord's will. You cannot get any better than that, and you cannot have the best behavior without doing His will! When should you and I be concerned about doing what pleases Jehovah? It is not a Sunday only affair, my brethren. Regardless of the situation, let us all strive to imitate Jesus and *"do always those things that please him."* If that is the pattern of our life, we will not regret it in this life, nor will we regret it in the life to come.

## Celebrate

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)*

**August Birthdays:** Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29)..

**August Anniversaries:** Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Darlene & Don Smith (29), Pam & Terry Teague (16).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

	August 7, 2011	August 14, 2011
Bible Class	57	50
AM Worship	79	73
PM Worship	53	47
Wednesday PM	46	48
Contribution	\$1772	\$1697

This Week: 8/21/11		Next Week: 8/28/11		August 2011	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				<b>Make Announcements:</b>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kalich	John Barnum Family		Garrett Barnum	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas	James Fuller		<b>Prepare Communion:</b>	
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta		Allen & Linda Griffith	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Michael Bickford	Gene Bannister		<b>Clean Building:</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		John Barnum Family	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				<b>Keep Grounds:</b>	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Matthew Churchwell	Jim Moore		Jim Moore	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum Hebrews 10:23-25	Hank Wheeler		<b>September 2011</b>	
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger		<b>Make Announcements:</b>	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		John Barnum	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	August 24 Tom Wilcox	August 31 Garrett Barnum	September 7 James Fuller	<b>Prepare Communion:</b>	
				Jim & Peg Moore	
				<b>Clean Building:</b>	
				Ryan & Priscilla Smithey	
				<b>Keep Grounds:</b>	
				Tom Wilcox	

## Search the Scriptures

*Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)*

<b>Studies for the week of August 21, 2011</b>		Sunday Class .....	Galatians (Chap. 5-6)
		Wednesday Class .....	Zechariah (Chap. 7-8)
<p><b>God, The Refiner (Malachi 3:3)</b>  <i>Many head back to school tomorrow to be "refined," remember we are being refined for a greater purpose...</i></p> <p><b>1. The Refiner's Pot</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is one of love for it contains that which is valuable (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 8:1-9; John 3:16)</li> <li>Seeks to improve its contents by bring forth greater value, remove impurities:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Works through heat, even as trials and difficulties of life try us and perfect us (James 1:2-4)</li> <li>But not a destructive heat (1 Cor. 10:13)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>2. The Refiner's Purpose</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He wants what is best and so refines and molds us into something greater (Isa. 1:18; 1 John 1:7; Rom 12:2).</li> <li>The trials and experiences of life are not worthless:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They prepare us for eternity (1 Pet. 1:3-9)</li> <li>They help us anticipate heaven (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1; Heb. 11:13-16; Col. 3:1-2)</li> <li>Tries/proves our faith (Gen. 22:1,12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15)</li> <li>Helps us appreciate blessings (Lk. 17:17; Col. 3:15)</li> <li>Equips us to help others (2 Cor. 1:3-7)</li> <li>Teaches us to trust Him (Jer. 10:23; 2 Cor. 1:8-11, 12:9; James 4:8-10)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>3. The Refiner's Product</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A refiner holds the silver over the fire until he can see himself reflected.</li> <li>This is what God seeks to accomplish as well (Eph. 5:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10)</li> </ol>		<p><b>Following Christ, Leading Others (Matthew. 14:13-21)</b>  <i>Jesus gives us a great example of how we ought to be leaders but also encourage others to be leaders in the church:</i></p> <p><b>1. Spend Time Preparing Yourself (v13)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus sought times of rest and prayer (v32; Mark 6:31-32).</li> <li>We need time to pray, study, and grow (1 Tim. 4:12-16; 2:2:15).</li> </ol> <p><b>2. Show Compassion For Others (v14)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus had compassion for others (Matt. 9:35-38; Phil. 2:5-4).</li> <li>To follow that example we must pay attention to others, recognize their needs, and aid where we can (James 2:15-17).</li> </ol> <p><b>3. Have Faith in God and in Others (v15-17)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the possibilities – (Mark 10:27); Look for opportunities instead of problems (2 Tim. 2:9; Phil. 1:12-14).</li> <li>See beyond the present – (John 17:20); Where can I or someone else be in 5 or 20+ years and what will it take to get there (Acts 16:1-3à2 Tim. 2:4à2 Tim. 2:2).</li> <li>Believe in others more than themselves – (Ex. 4:10—12; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 2:15).</li> </ol> <p><b>4. Take The Initiative (v18-19)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seize opportunities (John 4:6-10; Acts 17).</li> <li>Lead the way (Josh. 24:15; Rom. 1:16).</li> <li>Be a positive example (1 Cor. 11:1).</li> </ol> <p><b>5. Exceed Expectations (v20-21)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus fed all and had 12 baskets of food left!</li> <li>Maintain high standards (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3).</li> <li>Please God, no man (Gal. 1:10)</li> <li>Think big (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:16)</li> </ol> <p><b>6. Get to it!</b> – Plan, prepare, perform (2 Cor. 8:10-11)</p>	